

COMMUNIQUÉ



MIUN
GEI
INTERNATIONAL
MUSEUM

STAR FISCH

For over seven decades, Arline Fisch has been weaving, knitting, crocheting, braiding and hammering metal into exquisite articles of jewelry and adornment intended for the female form. Born in Brooklyn, in 1931, Fisch was inspired by childhood trips to The Metropolitan Museum of Art and other museums, as well as the theatrical, musical and architectural history of New York City. In 1961, Fisch was asked to establish and lead a newly created jewelry program at San Diego State University—which provided her fresh artistic inspiration via Southern California’s sensory-engaging qualities of color, form and scale, as well as new opportunities for travel and research. Visiting museums in the U.S. and Europe, Mexico and Central and South America exposed Fisch to the history of art across the globe. Fisch notes of her travels and artistic output: “I tend to mix up what I’ve seen or studied so that it is difficult to tell what has influenced any particular piece.” This exhibition includes approximately 30 necklaces, brooches, bracelets and pendants, as well as body ornaments such as a pectoral, headpiece, belt buckle, and pomanders—many on loan from the artist and inspired by her experiences. In addition to jewelry, a collection of knitted and crocheted, color-coated wire hanging flowers and sea creatures are on view.

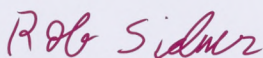
ARLINE FISCH—ONE OF A KIND
ON VIEW THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2018

from the Director

As a small museum with a global-sized mission and program, Mingei International depends on many generous volunteers to assist staff with information, insight and suggestions based on their wider experience as we prepare exhibitions and related educational programs and events. Two recent outstanding examples of such volunteerism are Jennifer Taschek and Joe Ball, a husband and wife team of archaeologists/anthropologists. Both are holders of anthropology doctorates from the University of Wisconsin. They share decades of classroom experience at San Diego State University where they have reported on their extensive complementary fieldwork in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, often focused on the culture of the Maya. Today, at SDSU, Jennifer is Adjunct Professor, and Joe Professor Emeritus and Albert W. Johnson Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology.

Three years ago Jennifer and Joe generously offered gratis to study the Museum's approximately 250 clay vessels and figures from pre-Columbian Mexico, Central and South America. Since then, during many morning-long sessions around a big work table in Collections—with Joe taking the lead and Jennifer chiming in with agreement, insight or dispute—the two led Christine Hietbrink (Director of Exhibitions and Chief Curator), Barbara Forsyth (Senior Collections and Registration Manager), Erin Minnaugh (Registrar) and me through a hands-on review of each piece in the collection. This allowed us to learn and capture more accurate and detailed information about a collection which the Balls judge to be the most significant in the region.

We now have a better understanding of various uses for the vessels (many related to food preparation or service), the identities of mythic and human figures represented, the locations and cultures from which the pottery arose, more exact dating for pieces and often a grasp of their cultural context and significance. With their expert eyes we also have been able to remove reproductions or truly fake pieces from the collection. The results of this in-depth review will be presented by Christine in an exhibition, **ART OF THE AMERICAS**, to open here in the fall, which will be dedicated to Jennifer and Joe for their distinguished service to this Museum.



Rob Sidner
Director



Stirrup-spout Effigy Jar, 300-400 A.D., North Coast Peru, Moche culture, brownware. Collection of Mingei International Museum; purchase made possible by a generous gift from Akaloa Resource Foundation. Photo by Katie Gardner.

ART OF THE AMERICAS

MESOAMERICAN, PRE-COLUMBIAN ART
FROM MINGEI'S PERMANENT COLLECTION

ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 - FEBRUARY 18, 2018

This fall, Mingei International Museum once again joins a Getty Center-led initiative of collaborative efforts from arts institutions across Southern California. **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA** is a far reaching and ambitious exploration and discussion of Latin American and Latino art from Santa Barbara to the Mexico border. Mingei joins over 70 institutions, 5 of which are in San Diego, with one of the few exhibitions of ancient Latin American art.

ART OF THE AMERICAS is the most comprehensive presentation to date of the Museum's significant holdings of objects used by people from the ancient cultures of Mexico, Central America and South America. Objects featured in the exhibition straddle cultural boundaries—from the Olmec and Maya civilizations in Mexico to the Moche civilization in Peru—as well as numerous ancient traditions and cultures, including the indigenous Teuchitlán, Zoque, Huastec and western Mexican societies.

Objects range from those for ritual and ceremonial use—figurines, vessels and sculptures depicting gods, shamans, animals, marine life and floral motifs—to objects for domestic use including jars, bowls, spindle whorls, ocarinas (wind instruments), roller stamps used for decorating cloth and adornments such as beads and ear plugs. A rare collection of Maya textile fragments and ancient beads from various cultures will also be presented.





RELATED PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS



LUNCHTIME LECTURE: Pre-Columbian Jewelry

Friday, September 29 12:00pm–1:00pm

Learn about the pre-Columbian jewelry presented in **ART OF THE AMERICAS** from Robert Liu, Coeditor of *Ornament Magazine*. Liu has written extensively on ancient, ethnographic, contemporary and personal adornment. He will discuss the objects on view and give an overview of pre-Columbian adornment.

Free for Members or with Museum Admission

PACIFIC STANDARD TIME: LA/LA SAN DIEGO EXHIBITIONS

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO

Memories of Underdevelopment

September 17, 2017 – January 7, 2018

OCEANSIDE MUSEUM OF ART

Undocumenta

September 23, 2017 – February 18, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

Xerografia: Copyart in Brazil, 1970-1990

Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries

September 15 – December 16, 2017

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

Point/Counterpoint: Contemporary Mexican Photography

September 30, 2017 – February 11, 2018

Right and left profile views of Stone Sculpture, c. 1440-1520 A.D., Tenochtitlán, México, unknown artist, basalt. Collection of Mingei International Museum, bequest of the Robert Bruce Inverarity Estate. Photo by Katie Gardner.



ART EXCURSION THE GETTY CENTER

Saturday, October 7

8:00am – 6:30pm

Spend a day exploring the Los Angeles Getty Center; enjoy spectacular views, wander through sculpture-dotted gardens, admire the architecture and take in a wide variety of exhibitions including *Golden Kingdoms: Luxury and Legacy in the Ancient Americas*. This **Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA** exhibition complements the pre-Columbian objects of Mingei's **ART OF THE AMERICAS**. With more than 250 pieces, the exhibition traces the development of luxury arts in the Americas from about 1000 BC to the arrival of Europeans in the early sixteenth century. The day will include guided tours, time for lunch at one of the cafés, shopping in the museum store and exploring the permanent collections on your own.

\$100 / \$80 Members

Reservations: (619) 704-7504 or online at mingei.org/getty

Includes: Transportation in chartered coach (Pick-ups from Balboa Park and Carlsbad); guided exhibition tour; breakfast and afternoon refreshments on the bus; tax-deductible contribution to Mingei International Museum. Lunch is on one's own.

INDONESIAN SHADOW PUPPETS

Shadow puppet performances have been a highly-refined and complex storytelling tradition in parts of Indonesia for hundreds of years. Known as *wayang kulit*, these flat puppets are cut and punched from water buffalo hide and then colorfully painted, usually on both sides. Sticks or handles made from water buffalo horn or wood, attached to the base and limbs of each puppet, enable it to come to life in the hands of the *dhalang*, or puppeteer, who sits behind a cotton screen and manipulates the puppets while narrating a story. Puppet performances provide entertainment, a sense of community, as well as an opportunity for sacred and secular instruction. Traditional performances are always accompanied by a gamelan, a musical ensemble comprised of gongs, drums, xylophones and stringed instruments.

This installation will feature approximately 30 puppets depicting a repertoire of heroes and heroines, demons and pranksters featured in the great Hindu epics, the *Mahābhārata* and *Rāmāyana*, as well as local gods and mythical subjects.

Shadow Puppet - Tree of Life (Kayon or Gunungan), late 20th Century, Indonesia, painted parchment, hide, bone. Collection Mingei International Museum, gift of Edward Inskeep. Photo by Katie Gardner.



RECENT FINANCIAL & IN-KIND DONATIONS

Mingei International Museum is grateful to all its members and friends who provide financial support throughout the year. Be it through an annual membership, a contribution to the Annual Appeal, a donation in support of special exhibitions or programs or a legacy gift through a will or bequest, you provide essential funds that continue to make the Museum a special cultural gift to San Diego and the world.

DONORS OF NOTE (APR-JUL 2017)

Azuki Sushi*
Norman Blachford and Peter Cooper
Carlos Cristiani
Carol and Martin Dickinson
Downtown Kiwanis Club of San Diego*
EA Ranches
Green Fresh Florals*
Carol F. Hinrichs
Kathy and Rob Jones
KPBS*
Mohawk Fine Papers*
Nessa Moll
Christa McReynolds
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Robert and Lora Sandroni
Rob Sidner
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory*
Thursday Club
Christy Walton
Jo and Howard Weiner
Abby and Ray Weiss
Wells Fargo Foundation
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
*in-kind donation

Thank you for your continued support.

SUMMER BY DESIGN

FRIDAY NIGHTS 5-8PM

BEER, WINE & DESIGN!

This summer Mingei International Museum will explore connections between the exhibition **KANBAN—Traditional Shop Signs of Japan** and contemporary approaches to signage, design and advertising. Hear from featured players in the field reflecting on and discussing signage and design through the lens of their own expertise.

JULY 21: TYPOGRAPHY

Patricia Cué, Associate Professor of Graphic Design at SDSU, will lead a discussion on traditional and contemporary approaches to typography with Dr. Hiroko Johnson, Professor Emeritus at SDSU, and Phoebe and Roxy from San Diego Letters.

JULY 28: FABRICATION

Sean McCoy of Glanz Signing and Graphics and Chris Puzio, metalwork artist, will discuss their work and the art of crafting signs.

AUGUST 4: SIGN PAINTERS

Screening of the 2014 film, *Sign Painters*, a documentary that looks at the fascinating, 150-year history of sign painters, as told by artists across the country. Following the screening, featured local artist Roderick Treece will discuss the film, his work and demonstrate his process.

AUGUST 11: GRAPHIC DESIGN

Mingei's Design Services Manager, Alexis O'Banion, will moderate a discussion on design with Don Hollis from Hollis Brand Culture, Casey White from Brandiose and MaeLin and Amy Levine from Visual Asylum.

AUGUST 18: ARCHITECTURE

Jennifer Luce, FAIA, Principal at LUCE et Studio, will discuss how she considers the integration of signage into her work, and present her design for the Museum's coming major renovation.

5PM HAPPY HOUR WITH FREE WINE, BEER & SNACKS

6PM PROGRAM STARTS, SEATING IS LIMITED

\$5 INCLUDES MUSEUM ADMISSION, FREE FOR MEMBERS

THE NEON MUSEUM

Wednesday, July 12

5:00pm – 7:30pm

With the exhibition **KANBAN** in mind, join us for a look at shop signs from a different perspective. Tracey Sprague, Collections Specialist from The Neon Museum in Las Vegas, will give a talk on her unique institution and its collection. Learn about the evolution of neon signage in Las Vegas, and The Neon Museum's mission to preserve the remains of the city's visual commercial culture in their new life as museum artifacts. Join us at 5:00pm for a complimentary happy hour prior to the talk.

\$10 / \$8 Members, students and faculty

GRACEFUL STROKES

A Beginners' Calligraphy Workshop

Saturday, September 23

9:00am – 12:00pm

Join us for a beginners' workshop on Japanese Calligraphy taught by San Diego Fellow Calligrapher member, Helen Lebowitz.

Participants will cover basics on how to hold and control the brush, learn how brush strokes work, and practice the medium to complete a simple, finished project. All materials are included, advanced reservation required.

\$45 / \$35 members, students and faculty

Shōkei kanban for pharmacy selling Ume no yuki, Shimizu Kōjirō, 1889, wood, gold leaf, lacquer, ink, metal fittings. Private Collection.



exhibition calendar

INDONESIAN SHADOW PUPPETS

Opens July 15, 2017

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FOLK ART

From the Permanent Collection

On view through August 20, 2017

ART OF THE AMERICAS:

Mesoamerican, Pre-Columbian Art from Mingei's Collection

Opens September 16, 2017

KANBAN

Traditional Shop Signs of Japan

On view through October 8, 2017

KANTHA

Recycled and Embroidered Textiles of Bengal

Opens October 28, 2017

TRAPPINGS

Homage to the Horse and Other Steeds

On view through November 12, 2017

WEAVING A PATH

Navajo Women and the Feminine Ethos

Opens December 9, 2017

ARLINE FISCH

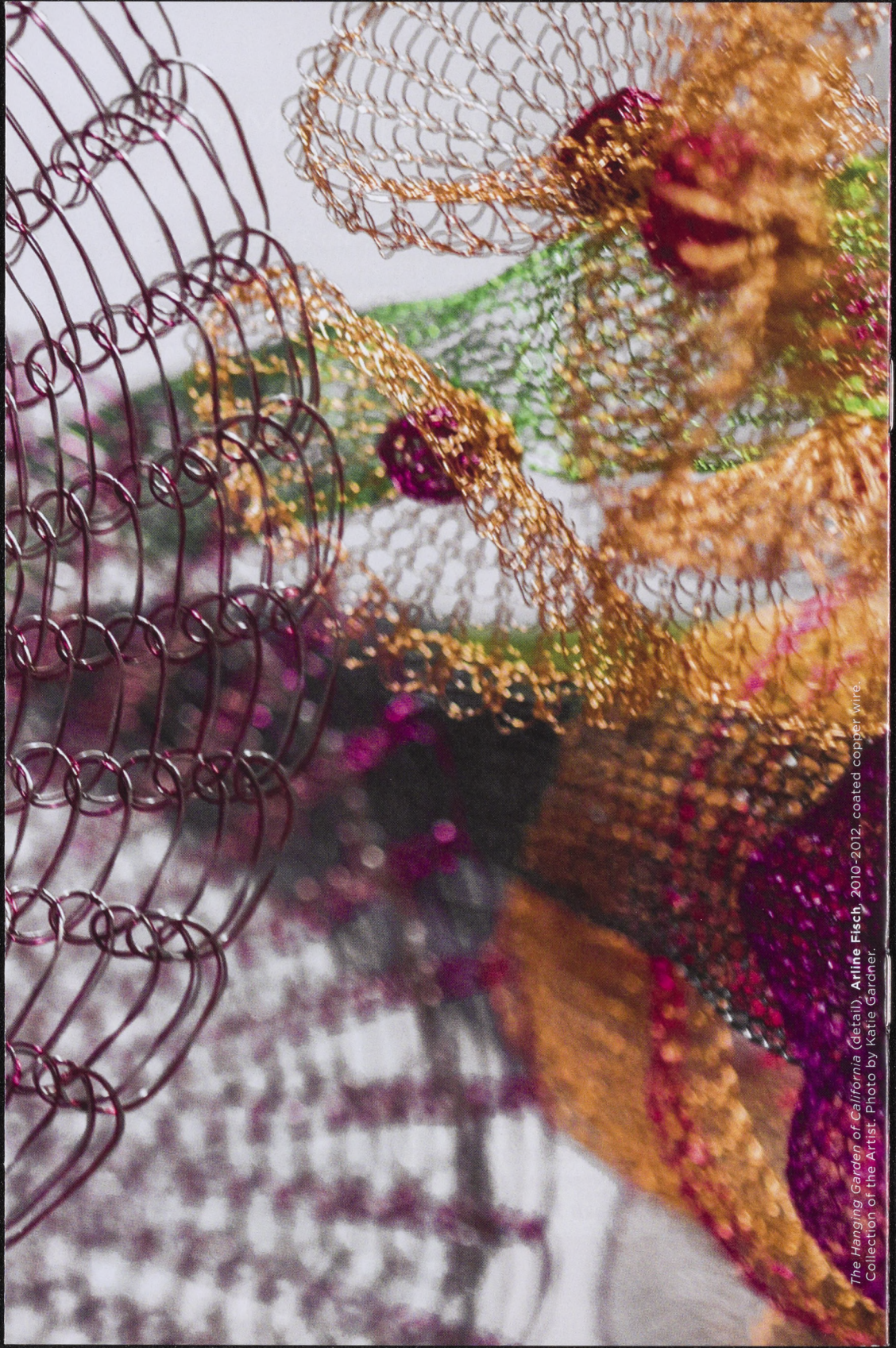
One of a Kind

On view through January 7, 2018

VOLUMINOUS ART

Treasures from San Diego's University Libraries

Opens March 10, 2018



The Hanging Garden of California (detail), Arline Fisch, 2010-2012, coated copper wire.
Collection of the Artist. Photo by Katie Gardner.